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3 September 1957

Executive Registry  
9-6714

MEMORANDUM FOR: ACTING DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT: Draft of Proposed Comment on Bureau of the Budget Field Survey Report [redacted]

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1. Submitted herewith is a draft proposed letter for your signature to Mr. Brundage, which has been prepared by the EE Division and more especially, by Mr. Bross himself who has spent considerable time and effort on this task. Mr. Helms and I both reviewed this draft carefully (and have also discussed various aspects of the draft with Mr. Bross during the preparatory phase) and in general we consider it to be an excellent comment upon the Bureau of the Budget report. It contains a thoughtful accurate recitation of the historical development and present policy basis for our [redacted] and is fully responsive to all of the main questions and issues raised in the report.

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2. The only points which I would recommend changing in the draft are concerned with a choice of wording in two places (indicated below) and the possible addition of a paragraph which Mr. Kirkpatrick might be willing to prepare for inclusion in the letter. [redacted] based upon his recent examination in [redacted] My thought in the latter connection is that Mr. Kirkpatrick has told us that he looked into these activities rather closely and received a favorable impression, and in any case I think it would be helpful for this letter to reflect the fact that these programs have been subjected to this kind of review, i.e., examination by an Agency official not personally involved in their origination or execution.

3. The two language changes which I recommend are both designed to remove tendentious terminology of the sort which is likely to create the impression of bad temper on our part. Although I sympathize with and share the reaction of irritation and frustration of the Division as regards certain of the criticisms in the report which I deem to be unjust and based on inadequate comprehension of all the factors involved, I consider it important for us to strive for a tone of objectivity in our written remarks. For these reasons, I would substitute the words "most questionable" for the word "weakest" in the first line of the third paragraph; and I would substitute the word "negative" or the words "unduly conservative" for the word "obtuse" in the next to the last line of the first complete paragraph on page three. In the same sense and for the same reasons, you might wish to tone down somewhat the expression "based upon factual inaccuracy or misunderstanding" in the last line of the second paragraph of the letter.

4. My only remaining comment is that I feel it is regrettable, though

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probably necessary, to go into so much operational detail and justification of policy as is the case in this draft. I do not, however, recommend any substantial deletions on this account, and on the contrary feel that some long term good may result from our providing such a thoughtful disquisition. For example, the considerations adduced, second complete paragraph on page three, although appearing obvious to us, seem to be in some need of statement.



FRANK G. WISNER  
Deputy Director (Plans)

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Attachment

Draft letter to Mr. Brundage  
from Gen. Cabell, dated 29 Aug 1957  
re Bureau of the Budget "Report on



cc: DDCI

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